

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08634 251122Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----251123Z 036694 /17

O R 251112Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4313

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF KAPUUO

REF: STATE 120274

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET ALONE WITH CHIEF KAPUUO MORNING OF MAY 25 JUST PRIOR TO THE CHIEF'S DEPARTURE FOR PARIS. OFFICER MADE POINTS IN REFTEL AND UNDER- SCORED A) THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE WESTERN FIVE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS SO FAR IN DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA BETWEEN THE CONTACT GROUP AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT; AND B) THAT THE WESTERN FIVE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN NAMIBIA LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE BE A LEGITIMATE PROCESS AND THEREFORE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF RESOLUTION 385.

2. KAPUUO SEEMED SURPRISED THAT THE TURNHALLE CONSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY WAS TO BE SUSPENDED. OFFICER STRESSED THAT THE TURNHALLE PROPOSALS COULD BE CON- SIDERED BY THE PROSPECTIVE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ALONG WITH ANY OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL IDEAS. THE WESTERN FIVE DID NOT SEEK TO DICTATE THE RESULTS OF A PROCESS NOR

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TO FAVOR ANY POLITICAL FACTION BUT ONLY TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY.

3. OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS ON A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY WERE PRESENTED TO KAPUUO WITH EMPHASIS THAT THIS INTERIM ARRANGEMENT MUST BE POLITICALLY NEUTRAL AND NOT TURNHALLE BY ANOTHER NAME. KAPUUO

WAS TOLD THAT WE REGARD DISCUSSIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO BE THE FIRST TEST OF THIS NEW WESTERN EFFORT AND THAT WE HOPED FOR HIS SUPPORT. KAPUUO DID NOT JUMP INTO THIS OPENING. HE SAID THAT TO ABANDON THE TURNHALLE PROCESS WOULD DAMAGE HIS CREDIBILITY IN NAMIBIA AND CONCLUDED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE THE BODY WHICH APPOINTS THE MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LONG ATTACK ON THE LEGITIMACY OF MOST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS BUT FINALLY RETURNED TO THE POINT AT HAND SAYING THAT HE WOULD WANT TO THINK FURTHER ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.

4. COMMENT: IF KAPUUO DID INDEED HAVE A MESSAGE TO CONVEY WHICH WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE EFFORTS OF THE FIVE, THEN HE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ON LEARNING THAT THE TURNHALLE PROPOSALS WERE TO BE SUSPENDED AND THAT THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY MUST BE ABSOLUTELY NEUTRAL IN CHARACTER. WE WILL NO DOUBT HEAR FROM HIM AGAIN ONCE HE HAS ABSORBED THE IMPLICATION OF OUR POSITION.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON08634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770186-0795
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770520/aaaaaqzj.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e6c498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 120274
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2379643
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF KAPUOO
TAGS: PFOR, XF, WA, UN, (KAPUOO, CLEMENS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e6c498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009